

FILED
3/2/2022

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THOMAS G. BRUTON
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

DENY MITROVICH

No. 18 CR 789

Judge Gary Feinerman

PLEA AGREEMENT

1. This Plea Agreement between the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, JOHN R. LAUSCH, JR., and defendant DENY MITROVICH, and his attorney, VADIM GLOZMAN, is made pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and is governed in part by Rule 11(a)(2), as more fully set forth below. The parties to this Agreement have agreed upon the following:

Charge in This Case

2. The indictment in this case charges defendant with possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(5)(B).

3. Defendant has read the charge against him contained in the indictment, and that charge has been fully explained to him by his attorney.

4. Defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the crime with which he has been charged.

Charge to Which Defendant Is Pleading Guilty

5. By this Plea Agreement, defendant agrees to enter a voluntary plea of guilty to the indictment, which charges defendant with possession of child

pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(5)(B). In addition, as further provided below, defendant agrees to the entry of a forfeiture judgment.

Factual Basis

6. Defendant will plead guilty because he is in fact guilty of the charge contained in the indictment. In pleading guilty, defendant admits the following facts and that those facts establish his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, constitute relevant conduct pursuant to Guideline § 1B1.3, and establish a basis for forfeiture of the property described elsewhere in this Plea Agreement:

On or about May 20, 2015, at Chicago, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, and elsewhere, defendant DENY MITROVICH, knowingly possessed material, namely the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>
Western Digital External Hard Drive	WCARW6062159
Hitachi Internal Hard Drive	HN07304A
Western Digital Internal Hard Drive	WCASY1307751

that contained an image of child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8)(A), involving a prepubescent minor and a minor who had not attained 12 years of age, such image having been shipped and transported using any means and facility of interstate commerce and such image having been produced using materials that had been shipped and transported in and affecting interstate

and foreign commerce by any means, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(5)(B).

More specifically, beginning in or about August 2014, MITROVICH used TOR to access a hidden service known as “The Love Zone” (“TLZ”)—an online bulletin board dedicated to the sharing of child pornography. MITROVICH participated on the TLZ under the username, “cyberguy.” Under TLZ’s rules, members were required to periodically upload child pornography to TLZ (i.e., “contribute”) in order to maintain the ability to download child pornography from TLZ. MITROVICH complied with this rule, and he acknowledges that between August 3, 2014, and December 9, 2014, MITROVICH contributed approximately 24 times, and based on his uploading of child pornography later received additional child pornography which he viewed and downloaded.

For example, on or about September 10, 2014, defendant contributed a post entitled “Suger Spice girl slurping cock ;),” which included a link to a video that was 4 minutes 2 seconds long that depicted a prepubescent female, including the oral penetration of this female by an adult male’s penis. As another example, on or about October 10, 2014, defendant contributed a post entitled “Little pussy - Tight fit,” which included a link to a video that was 3 minutes 45 seconds long that depicted a prepubescent female, including the vaginal penetration of this female by an adult males’ finger and penis.

On or about May 20, 2015, defendant possessed three hard drives in his home in Chicago. Each of the three drives contained child pornography, and each drive was manufactured outside of the United States. The Western Digital External Hard Drive (Serial Number WCARW6062159) contained approximately 1263 images of child pornography and approximately 539 videos of child pornography. The Hitachi Internal Hard Drive (Serial Number HN07304A) contained approximately 17 images of child pornography. The Western Digital Internal Hard Drive (Serial Number WCASY1307751) contained approximately 16 images of child pornography.

Defendant acknowledges that among the child pornography defendant possessed on these drives were items involving sadistic or masochistic conduct, sexual abuse, and other violence, as well as items involving sexual abuse or exploitation of a toddler. For example, the file named, "faoepaabm.jpg," consisted of a collage of pictures of the same prepubescent female. Among other things, the collage depicted (1) the oral penetration of this female by an adult male's penis while the female was handcuffed, (2) an adult male urinating on the female, (3) the female in a closed dog's crate, (4) the female with clamps on her chest, and (5) the female with the words, "hurt me," written on her body.

Maximum Statutory Penalties

7. Defendant understands that the charge to which he is pleading guilty carries the following statutory penalties:

a. A maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment. This offense also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. Defendant further understands that the judge also must impose a term of supervised release of at least five years, and up to any number of years, including life.

b. Defendant further understands that the Court must order restitution to the victims of the offense in an amount determined by the Court. The Court also may order restitution to any persons as agreed by the parties.

c. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, defendant will be assessed \$100 on the charge to which he has pled guilty, in addition to any other penalty or restitution imposed.

Sentencing Guidelines Calculations

8. Defendant understands that in determining a sentence, the Court is obligated to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and other sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), which include: (i) the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant; (ii) the need for the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law, and provide just punishment for the offense, afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct, protect the public from further crimes of the defendant, and provide the defendant with needed educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner; (iii) the

kinds of sentences available; (iv) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and (v) the need to provide restitution to any victim of the offense.

9. For purposes of calculating the Sentencing Guidelines, the parties agree on the following points:

a. **Applicable Guidelines.** The Sentencing Guidelines to be considered in this case are those in effect at the time of sentencing. The following statements regarding the calculation of the Sentencing Guidelines are based on the Guidelines Manual currently in effect, namely the November 2018 Guidelines Manual.

b. **Offense Level Calculations.**

i. The base offense level is 18, pursuant to Guideline § 2G2.2(a)(1).

ii. Pursuant to Guideline § 2G2.2(b)(2), defendant's offense level is increased by two levels because the material involved a minor who had not attained the age of twelve years.

iii. It is the government's positions that defendant's offense level is increased by five levels, pursuant to Guideline § 2G2.2(b)(3)(B), because he knowingly engaged in distribution in exchange for valuable consideration, namely receiving additional child pornography. It is defendant's position that this

enhancement does not apply. Each party is free to present evidence and argument to the Court on this issue.

iv. Pursuant to Guideline § 2G2.2(b)(4), defendant's offense level is increased by four levels because the material involved sadistic or masochistic conduct, sexual abuse, and other violence, as well as the sexual abuse or exploitation of a toddler.

v. Pursuant to Guideline § 2G2.2(b)(6), defendant's offense level is increased by two levels because the offense involved the use of a computer or interactive computer service for the receipt or possession of the material.

vi. Pursuant to Guideline § 2G2.2(b)(7)(D), defendant's offense level is increased by five levels because the offense involved 600 or more images containing child pornography.

vii. If the Court determines at the time of sentencing that defendant has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for his criminal conduct within the meaning of Guideline § 3E1.1(a), including by furnishing the United States Attorney's Office and the Probation Office with all requested financial information relevant to his ability to satisfy any fine or restitution that may be imposed in this case, a two-level reduction in the offense level will be appropriate. The government reserves the right to take whatever position it deems appropriate at the time of sentencing with respect to

whether defendant has accepted responsibility within the meaning of Guideline § 3E1.1(a).

viii. In accord with Guideline § 3E1.1(b), defendant has timely notified the government of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently. Therefore, as provided by Guideline § 3E1.1(b), if the Court determines the offense level to be 16 or greater prior to determining that defendant is entitled to a two-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, the government will move for an additional one-level reduction in the offense level.

c. **Criminal History Category.** With regard to determining defendant's criminal history points and criminal history category, based on the facts now known to the government, defendant's criminal history points equal zero and defendant's criminal history category is I.

d. **Anticipated Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Range.** Therefore, based on the facts now known to the government, it is the government's position that the anticipated offense level is 36 which, when combined with the anticipated criminal history category of I, results in an anticipated advisory sentencing guidelines range of 188 to 235 months' imprisonment, in addition to any supervised release, fine, and restitution the Court may impose. It is defendant's position that the anticipated offense level is 28 which, when combined with the anticipated criminal history category of I, results in an anticipated advisory

sentencing guidelines range of 78 to 97 months' imprisonment, in addition to any supervised release, fine, and restitution the Court may impose.

e. Defendant and his attorney and the government acknowledge that the above guidelines calculations are preliminary in nature, and are non-binding predictions upon which neither party is entitled to rely. Defendant understands that further review of the facts or applicable legal principles may lead the government to conclude that different or additional guidelines provisions apply in this case. Defendant understands that the Probation Office will conduct its own investigation and that the Court ultimately determines the facts and law relevant to sentencing, and that the Court's determinations govern the final guideline calculation. Accordingly, the validity of this Agreement is not contingent upon the probation officer's or the Court's concurrence with the above calculations, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw his plea on the basis of the Court's rejection of these calculations.

10. Both parties expressly acknowledge that this Agreement is not governed by Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), and that errors in applying or interpreting any of the sentencing guidelines may be corrected by either party prior to sentencing. The parties may correct these errors either by stipulation or by a statement to the Probation Office or the Court, setting forth the disagreement regarding the applicable provisions of the guidelines. The validity of this Agreement will not be affected by

such corrections, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw his plea, nor the government the right to vacate this Agreement, on the basis of such corrections.

Agreements Relating to Sentencing

11. Each party is free to recommend whatever sentence it deems appropriate.

12. It is understood by the parties that the sentencing judge is neither a party to nor bound by this Agreement and may impose a sentence up to the maximum penalties as set forth above. Defendant further acknowledges that if the Court does not accept the sentencing recommendation of the parties, defendant will have no right to withdraw his guilty plea.

13. Regarding restitution, defendant acknowledges that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2259, the Court must order restitution in the full amount of the losses of any victim of defendant's offense, as the terms "victim" and "loss" are defined in that section. The amount of restitution shall be determined by the Court at sentencing.

14. Restitution shall be due immediately, and paid pursuant to a schedule to be set by the Court at sentencing. Defendant acknowledges that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3664(k), he is required to notify the Court and the United States Attorney's Office of any material change in economic circumstances that might affect his ability to pay restitution.

15. Defendant agrees to pay the special assessment of \$100 at the time of sentencing with a cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court.

16. Defendant agrees that the United States may enforce collection of any fine or restitution imposed in this case pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3572, 3613, and 3664(m), notwithstanding any payment schedule set by the Court.

Forfeiture

17. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he will subject to forfeiture to the United States all right, title, and interest that he has in any property used or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit or facilitate commission of the offense.

18. Defendant agrees to forfeiture of the specific property identified for forfeiture in the indictment. In doing so, defendant admits that the property described above facilitated the offense, as alleged in the indictment. Defendant consents to the immediate entry of a preliminary order of forfeiture as to this specific property, thereby extinguishing any right, title, or interest defendant has in it. If any of the specific property is not yet in the custody of the United States, defendant agrees to seizure of that property so that it may be disposed of according to law.

19. Defendant understands that forfeiture shall not be treated as satisfaction of any fine, restitution, cost of imprisonment, or any other penalty the Court may impose upon defendant in addition to the forfeiture judgment.

20. Defendant agrees to waive all constitutional, statutory, and equitable challenges in any manner, including but not limited to direct appeal or a motion brought under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this agreement on any grounds, including that the forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine or punishment. The waiver in this paragraph does not apply to a claim of involuntariness or ineffective assistance of counsel.

Acknowledgments and Waivers Regarding Plea of Guilty

Nature of Agreement

21. This Agreement is entirely voluntary and represents the entire agreement between the United States Attorney and defendant regarding defendant's criminal liability in case 18 CR 789.

22. This Agreement concerns criminal liability only. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, nothing herein shall constitute a limitation, waiver, or release by the United States or any of its agencies of any administrative or judicial civil claim, demand, or cause of action it may have against defendant or any other person or entity. The obligations of this Agreement are limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois and cannot bind any other

federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

Conditional Plea of Guilty

23. The government agrees that defendant's plea of guilty is entered pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(a)(2). Pursuant to that Rule, the parties agree that defendant, with the consent of the Court, may enter a conditional plea of guilty, reserving his right to appeal the Court's Order of July 7, 2021, denying defendant's motion to suppress or dismiss. Only in the event of a reversal of that decision will defendant be permitted to withdraw his plea. The government does not consent to an appeal on any other pretrial issue, and defendant reserves the right to appeal only the identified pretrial ruling and any issues relating to sentencing. Defendant acknowledges that in the event of a reversal of the Court's order denying the motion to suppress or dismiss, the government may reinstate and prosecute any charges against defendant, including but not limited to the charge to which he is pleading guilty under this Agreement. Defendant understands that the Court decides whether or not to approve the entry of this conditional plea under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(a)(2). If the Court refuses to accept the conditional term of this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null and void.

Waiver of Rights

24. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he surrenders certain rights, including the following:

a. **Trial rights.** Defendant has the right to persist in a plea of not guilty to the charge against him, and if he does, he would have the right to a public and speedy trial.

i. The trial could be either a jury trial or a trial by the judge sitting without a jury. However, in order that the trial be conducted by the judge sitting without a jury, defendant, the government, and the judge all must agree that the trial be conducted by the judge without a jury.

ii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be composed of twelve citizens from the district, selected at random. Defendant and his attorney would participate in choosing the jury by requesting that the Court remove prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or by removing prospective jurors without cause by exercising peremptory challenges.

iii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be instructed that defendant is presumed innocent, that the government has the burden of proving defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and that the jury could not convict him unless, after hearing all the evidence, it was persuaded of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The jury would have to agree unanimously before it could return a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

iv. If the trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and determine, after hearing all the evidence, whether or not the

judge was persuaded that the government had established defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

v. At a trial, whether by a jury or a judge, the government would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against defendant. Defendant would be able to confront those government witnesses and his attorney would be able to cross-examine them.

vi. At a trial, defendant could present witnesses and other evidence in his own behalf. If the witnesses for defendant would not appear voluntarily, he could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court. A defendant is not required to present any evidence.

vii. At a trial, defendant would have a privilege against self-incrimination so that he could decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from his refusal to testify. If defendant desired to do so, he could testify in his own behalf.

viii. With respect to forfeiture, defendant understands that if the case were tried before a jury, he would have a right to retain the jury to determine whether the government had established the requisite nexus between defendant's offense and any specific property alleged to be subject to forfeiture.

b. **Appellate rights.** Defendant further understands he is waiving all appellate issues that might have been available if he had exercised his right to trial, and may only appeal the validity of this plea of guilty, the Court's order of July

7, 2021, referenced above, and the sentence imposed. Defendant understands that any appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days of the entry of the judgment of conviction.

25. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he is waiving all the rights set forth in the prior paragraphs, with the exception of the appellate rights specifically preserved above. Defendant's attorney has explained those rights to him, and the consequences of his waiver of those rights.

Presentence Investigation Report/Post-Sentence Supervision

26. Defendant understands that the United States Attorney's Office in its submission to the Probation Office as part of the Pre-Sentence Report and at sentencing shall fully apprise the District Court and the Probation Office of the nature, scope, and extent of defendant's conduct regarding the charge against him, and related matters. The government will make known all matters in aggravation and mitigation relevant to sentencing.

27. Defendant agrees to truthfully and completely execute a Financial Statement (with supporting documentation) prior to sentencing, to be provided to and shared among the Court, the Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office regarding all details of his financial circumstances, including his recent income tax returns as specified by the probation officer. Defendant understands that providing false or incomplete information, or refusing to provide this information, may be used as a basis for denial of a reduction for acceptance of responsibility

pursuant to Guideline § 3E1.1 and enhancement of his sentence for obstruction of justice under Guideline § 3C1.1, and may be prosecuted as a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 or as a contempt of the Court.

28. For the purpose of monitoring defendant's compliance with his obligations to pay a fine and restitution during any term of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced, defendant further consents to the disclosure by the IRS to the Probation Office and the United States Attorney's Office of defendant's individual income tax returns (together with extensions, correspondence, and other tax information) filed subsequent to defendant's sentencing, to and including the final year of any period of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced. Defendant also agrees that a certified copy of this Agreement shall be sufficient evidence of defendant's request to the IRS to disclose the returns and return information, as provided for in Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103(b).

29. Defendant understands that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3583(d) and 4042(c), the Court must order as an explicit condition of supervised release that defendant register as a sex offender in compliance with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. Defendant also understands that he will be subject to federal and state sex offender registration requirements independent of supervised release, that those requirements may apply throughout his life, and that he may be subject to state and federal prosecution for

failing to comply with applicable sex offender registration laws. Defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the Court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his duties to comply with current or future sex offender registration laws. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any sex offender registration consequences that his guilty plea may entail.

30. Defendant agrees to participate in psychological counseling and sex offender treatment as directed by the Probation Office as a condition of any sentence of probation or supervised release imposed.

Other Terms

31. Defendant agrees to cooperate with the United States Attorney's Office in collecting any unpaid fine and restitution for which defendant is liable, including providing financial statements and supporting records as requested by the United States Attorney's Office.

32. Defendant understands that, if convicted, a defendant who is not a United States citizen may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

Conclusion

33. Defendant understands that this Agreement will be filed with the Court, will become a matter of public record, and may be disclosed to any person.

34. Defendant understands that his compliance with each part of this Agreement extends throughout the period of his sentence, and failure to abide by any term of the Agreement is a violation of the Agreement. Defendant further understands that in the event he violates this Agreement, the government, at its option, may move to vacate the Agreement, rendering it null and void, and thereafter prosecute defendant not subject to any of the limits set forth in this Agreement, or may move to resentence defendant or require defendant's specific performance of this Agreement. Defendant understands and agrees that in the event that the Court permits defendant to withdraw from this Agreement, or defendant breaches any of its terms and the government elects to void the Agreement and prosecute defendant, any prosecutions that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this Agreement may be commenced against defendant in accordance with this paragraph, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this Agreement and the commencement of such prosecutions.

35. Should the judge refuse to accept defendant's plea of guilty, this Agreement shall become null and void and neither party will be bound to it.

36. Defendant and his attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made, nor agreements reached, other than those set forth in this Agreement, to cause defendant to plead guilty.

37. Defendant acknowledges that he has read this Agreement and carefully reviewed each provision with his attorney. Defendant further acknowledges that he understands and voluntarily accepts each and every term and condition of this Agreement.

AGREED THIS DATE: _____

JASON YONAN

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YONAN
Date: 2022.02.17 08:12:51 -06'00'

JOHN R. LAUSCH, JR.
United States Attorney

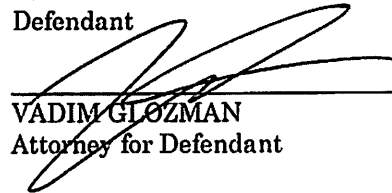
ANDREW ERSKINE

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ANDREW C. ERSKINE
Assistant U.S. Attorney



DENY MITROVICH
Defendant



VADIM GLAZMAN
Attorney for Defendant